



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 08 April 2003

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



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www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- KAALTV.com reports twenty-nine train cars slammed into a warehouse along the Mississippi River allowing a small amount of methanol to leak and evaporate. (See item [8](#))
- CNN Money reports Continental Airlines has said it will suspend nonstop flights between its New York area hub and Hong Kong for nearly two months because of plunging demand attributed to SARS health fears. (See item [9](#))
- The New York Times reports the recent handling of suspicious mail in Hartford has prompted a federal review as well as a grievance filed with the Postal Service. (See item [12](#))

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: High, Cyber: High

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *April 07, News Sentinel (Alabama)* — TVA nuclear reactor trips need for manual shutdown. Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) officials were forced to manually shut down one of its three nuclear reactors at the Browns Ferry plant in northern Alabama on Wednesday, officials said. "In layman's language, there are new components in Unit 2, and they are getting the bugs out of it," said Ken Clark, spokesman for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the federal agency charged with overseeing nuclear plants. **"They're still looking into what's happening. ... It's not a safety problem."** Terry Johnson, TVA spokesman at the plant near Athens, Ala., said the equipment "tripped," that is, it automatically shutdown. The

reactor's two new re-circulation pumps are designed to adjust the power level of the reactor. **Clark said when the first pump tripped, TVA officials took the reactor down to 60 percent production capacity, but manually shut the reactor down when the second pump tripped. "As far as the seriousness regarding the public and the employees, there's no danger," Johnson said.** The plant's Unit 3 reactor is still operating at full power and Unit 1 is still undergoing restart work to bring that unit back on line. TVA is the nation's largest public utility, serving 8.3 million people in seven states, including Tennessee.
Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3753928

2. *April 07, Associated Press* — **Nuclear waste will remain in state for decades .** Even if the Prairie Island (Minnesota) nuclear plant were to shut down in a few years, radioactive waste would remain at the site for several decades. **Documents prepared by plant owner Xcel Energy and federal regulators show that removal of the waste stored in casks and an indoor pool would not be finished until 2038 at the earliest – and the waste could remain there until 2062.** The Legislature is debating the future of nuclear power in Minnesota — specifically whether to allow more nuclear waste storage at Prairie Island near Red Wing, which otherwise must shut down in 2007. Much of the debate has focused on extending the life of that plant and, eventually, Xcel's other nuclear plant, at Monticello. **A review of technical reports, company e-mails and other documents determined that nuclear waste will remain in Minnesota for decades -- regardless of what legislators do.**
Source: <http://www.kaaltv.com/article/view/11509/>
3. *April 07, Platts Global Energy News* — **Nigerian firms resuming output despite pipeline rupture. Shell and ChevronTexaco Monday said they were gradually resuming production in Nigeria's western Niger Delta despite reports a pipeline had been sabotaged in the Escravos area.** State-owned NNPC at the weekend said a crude pipeline running from its four storage tanks at the Escravos crude terminal to the Warri 125,000 b/d refinery had been vandalized. "We are still restarting production. Of course, we are always concerned when something like this happens to one of the operators," a ChevronTexaco spokesman said. **The NNPC said that preliminary investigations showed that the pipeline was vandalized "with tools suspected to be explosives,"** the ThisDay newspaper said.
Source: <http://www.platts.com/stories/home3.html>
4. *April 05, Chattanooga Times/Free Press* — **TVA proceeds with replacement of Tennessee nuclear plant steam generators.** The lid came off the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant on Friday, and Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) officials said they couldn't be happier. "After four years of design and preparation, this is proceeding extremely well," said Bob Rausch, the project manager for the biggest equipment upgrade in Sequoyah's 22-year history. **The Tennessee Valley Authority is cutting holes in the top of the containment buildings at Sequoyah to replace four steam generators for the Unit 1 reactor.** The operation was the most visible step yet in the \$160 million project, TVA officials said. TVA is replacing the steam generators during the current refueling outage to ensure the continued efficient operation of the plant. TVA has had to plug about 1,100 of the 3,500 tubes within the existing steam generators, limiting the plant's efficiency and requiring longer outages, Sequoyah site manager Rick Purcell said. **The old steam generators will be stored in a reinforced concrete structure erected at the Sequoyah site to avoid radioactive contamination. The new 360-ton steam generators will be lifted into place by the same towering crane used to remove the containment shell on**

Friday.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3753633

5. *April 04, Occupational Health & Safety* — **Two missing fuel rods pose no threat, NRC says . Two lost spent fuel rods from a Connecticut nuclear power plant two years ago pose no present or future risk to public health, safety, or the environment**, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) declared in January. NRC's Office of Nuclear Material Safety and Safeguards is taking public comments until March 7 on draft safety analyses of those rods, which were reported missing in November 2000 from Millstone Unit I near New London, CT. Unit I is not currently operating, although Units 2 and 3 are at the same site. Owner Dominion Nuclear Connecticut Inc. **investigated the missing fuel rods and concluded in October 2001 they might have been accidentally sent for disposal as Class C low-level radioactive waste to either of two disposal facilities: Hanford, WA, or Barnwell, SC.** The commission conducted a follow-up inspection and agreed with Dominion's conclusions.

Source: http://www.energycentral.com/sections/news/nw_article.cfm?id=3753927

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Chemical Sector

6. *April 08, Washington Post Online* — **Bush Seeks Voluntary Chemical Plant Security Steps . The Bush administration is proposing new legislation to improve security standards at chemical plants that will emphasize voluntary compliance** by an industry that some experts say is one of the nation's most vulnerable to catastrophic terrorist attack. Sen. James M. Inhofe (R-Okla.) is working with the White House and the Department of Homeland Security to craft a bill that would require chemical companies to abide by standards drawn up by their industry association. **The Environmental Protection Agency has identified 123 chemical plants where a terrorist attack could, in a "worst-case" scenario, kill more than 1 million people.** Besides the airline industry, which tightened security as demanded by the U.S. government after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks, **the chemical industry is the first business sector that the administration has sought to regulate to lessen the danger of terrorism.** Homeland Security officials are considering how to harden many elements of the nation's "critical infrastructure" — which includes gas pipelines and water plants — and they say chemical plants are one of the most worrisome sectors.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A51903-2003Apr 7.html>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *April 04, Government Executive* — **DOD intelligence unit will begin operating in June.** Stephen A. Cambone, the Defense Department's former director of program analysis and evaluation, on June 1 will set up an organization to better share intelligence information across DOD and with other federal agencies. Cambone was sworn into his new post as the military's first undersecretary of intelligence in mid-March after Senate confirmation. **Defense secretary Donald Rumsfeld created the position to emphasize the importance of intelligence**

gathering. Officials said the need for a DOD intelligence unit was underscored by the 2001 terrorist attacks against the Pentagon and World Trade Center, and the ongoing war against terrorism.

Source: http://gcen.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/21632-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

Nothing to report.

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Transportation Sector

8. *April 07, KAALTV.com (Austin, MN)* — **Railroad workers replacing damaged track after derailment.** Canadian Pacific Railway workers are working tonight to replace 1500 feet of track damaged when a CPR train derailed in downtown Red Wing, MN. **Twenty-nine train cars slammed into a warehouse along the Mississippi River at around 6:30 am Sunday.** No injuries were reported, but some businesses were closed and the area was closed to traffic. **Three of the cars contained methanol, but only a small amount of the hazardous substance leaked and evaporated.** Investigators discovered today that the accident also derailed five additional, empty rail cars parked on a side track. The accident is being investigated by CPA authorities and the Federal Railroad Administration.

Source: <http://www.kaaltv.com/article/view/11500/>

9. *April 07, CNN Money* — **Continental suspends Newark-Hong Kong flights.** Continental Airlines said Monday it will suspend nonstop flights between its New York area hub and Hong Kong for nearly two months because of plunging demand attributed to SARS health fears. **The No. 5 U.S. air carrier, said it is suspending its five-times per week service from its Newark, NJ, hub to Hong Kong until June 2. The last flight to Hong Kong will be Thursday and the last flight to Newark Saturday.** The pneumonia-like disease, called Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome, or SARS, has killed 100 people worldwide and infected more than 2,600. It originated in China's Guangdong province, hit neighboring Hong Kong in March, and has been spread around the world by travelers. Continental said traffic from Hong Kong has remained stable, **but passenger demand from the United States has plummeted because of government and health organization advisories recommending that travelers postpone Hong Kong travel.**

Source: http://money.cnn.com/2003/04/07/news/international/continental_sars.reut/index.htm

10. *April 07, Smart Money/Dow Jones* — **Airline service improves amid lower traffic.** U.S. airline industry performance improved last year as fewer people took to the skies, a study released Monday said. **University researchers Brent Bowen and Dean Headley announced the results of their annual airline quality rating for the 10 biggest U.S. carriers. The study showed consumer complaints tumbled, more planes were on time and reports of mishandled baggage dropped.** "The good news is the U.S. airline industry improved in overall operational performance, as we measure it," said Bowen, a professor at the University of

Nebraska. The study said about 470 million people boarded one of the 10 largest carriers in the U.S. to fly somewhere within the nation last year. That figure is down from 488 million in 2001. "Airline quality has improved for the second consecutive year," said Headley, a professor at Wichita State University. "That's a good thing, but it should have improved given that there are fewer passengers and fewer flights." **There were 1.22 consumer complaints per 100,000 passengers for the 10 biggest airlines in 2002 – a 42% decrease from the previous year, the study showed.** The report was based on U.S. Transportation Department data.

Source: <http://smartmoney.com/bn/ON/index.cfm?story=ON-20030407-0008 87-1216>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

11. *April 07, Mercury News* — **Protesters at Port of Oakland. About 400 to 500 protesters tried Monday to disrupt operations at two terminals of companies they say ship military cargo for the Department of Defense.** Most of the protesters dispersed, but when some refused, police began shooting wooden bullets into the crowd. Oakland, CA Police said at least 24 people were arrested. "Some people were blocking port property and the port authorities asked us to move them off," said Deputy Police Chief Patrick Haw. "Police moved aggressively against crowds because some people threw rocks and iron bolts at officers."

Source: <http://www.bayarea.com/mld/mercurynews/5578918.htm>

12. *April 05, New York Times* — **Handling of suspicious mail raises questions in Hartford.** One envelope was empty but bore a threatening message. Another letter contained fine white crumbs. A third held some powdery candy. **All three pieces of suspicious mail turned out to be harmless, but their handling at two post offices in Hartford, CT this winter has prompted Senator Joseph I. Lieberman to request a federal review and a union president to file a grievance with the Postal Service.** On Thursday, Senator Lieberman sent a letter to John E. Potter, the postmaster general, requesting a review of whether proper safety protocol was followed in two incidents involving suspicious letters in December and January. **Lieberman had already contacted Potter after a November 19 incident at Hartford's main mail-distribution center, where an envelope inscribed with the words "to anyone who wants anthrax, have a nice day" was carried by a supervisor from one end of the center to the other, in violation of the containment protocol for suspicious mail.**

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/05/nyregion/05POST.html>

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Agriculture Sector

13. *April 07, Wisconsin Ag Connection* — **Ukraine poultry agreement negotiated. The United States and Ukraine have signed a protocol, which ends a 16-month ban on U.S. poultry exports to that country, the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) announced.** The protocol establishes a revised veterinary certificate for poultry exports to Ukraine. The protocol language was agreed to following two days of discussions that concentrated on specific wording of the veterinary certificate that is issued by the USDA Food Safety and Inspection

Service for each shipment of exported poultry. **The United States exported poultry and poultry products worth \$11 million to the Ukraine in 2001, the last year that market was open.**

Source: <http://www.wisconsinagconnection.com/story-national.cfm?Id=391t>>

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Food Sector

14. *April 07, Hartford Courant* — **Food screening in the field. Scientists and government authorities concerned about the possibility of bioterrorism attacks say a person with minimal microbiology training could easily get enough of the pathogen, E. coli O157:H7, from animal waste in a barn, and grow it in a laboratory for use as a food-borne weapon.** This type of bacterium has tainted beef, unpasteurized milk and apple juice and has sickened hundreds of people. But it has not been used in a bioterrorism attack. **Jay Glasel, a biochemist at the University of Connecticut Health Center in Farmington, and other scientists at the health center, using a \$3.1 million grant from the federal government, are trying to develop a portable instrument to detect pathogens in food to warn of potential terrorism.** Such detection work now has to be done in a laboratory or with the use of a cumbersome instrument, so food samples often have to be brought to fixed locations for testing. If the screening could be done cheaply where food is processed, handled, sold and eaten, the cause of fighting potential threats to the food supply could be given a major boost, experts say.

Source: <http://www.ctnow.com/news/local/hc-farmonitor0407.artapr07.0467001.story?coll=hc-headlines-local>

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Water Sector

15. *April 07, Water Tech Online* — **Wastewater treatment security legislation introduced in U.S. Senate. Legislation was introduced last week in the U.S. Senate that seeks to strengthen the security of the nation's wastewater treatment systems.** The Wastewater Treatment Works Security and Safety Act of 2003 would provide \$195 million to review plant vulnerability, improve security, and develop new technologies for wastewater plants. **The legislation authorizes \$180 million for fiscal years 2004 through 2008 for grants to review plant vulnerability and improve security.** The bill also recognizes the need to address immediate and urgent security needs with a special \$20 million authorization over 2004 and 2005.

Source: <http://www.watertechonline.com/news.asp?mode=4font>>

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Public Health Sector

16. *April 07, Globe and Mail* — **SARS spreads in China.** China's government revealed on Monday that SARS had spread to more of its provinces than it had previously acknowledged, as

officials in Hong Kong reported another death, bringing the illnesses's worldwide death toll to 100, including nine in Canada. **Chinese state television reported one SARS death each in the provinces of Shanxi in the north, Sichuan in the west, and Hunan in central China, the first deaths in those areas.** Previously, China had reported 43 deaths from the pneumonia-like severe acute respiratory syndrome in the southern province of Guangdong, where experts believe the disease originated. It had also reported deaths in Beijing and the Guangxi region.

Source: <http://www.globeandmail.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20030407.wsars0407/BNSStory/International>

17. *April 07, Newsday* — **Unprecedented probe.** Dr. David Heymann leads the World Health Organization's (WHO) efforts to control the new, mysterious pneumonia virus. On this night, he expresses concern about how much longer his staff can maintain the furious pace it has been on since mid-March. **The pace cannot slacken, the U.S. scientist says, not until WHO and its global collaborators develop a reliable diagnostic test to confirm who has Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS), and who may have been infected but never developed symptoms. The latter is vital to know if there are carriers who pass the germ to others without developing symptoms that would bring them to the attention of health authorities.** "I think we've got to keep going at this speed until we get that diagnostic kit in use and figure out what's going on," Heymann said. "Then we'll know if we've lost or not." **If SARS takes up permanent global residence, the only hope for control will be a vaccine, Heymann says. Though work has already begun on vaccine development, presuming the microbe is a coronavirus, the process requires at least a year.** Meanwhile, SARS could continue to spread.

Source: <http://www.nynewsday.com/news/ny-sars0406.0.1927576.story?coll=nyc-topnews-short-navigation>

18. *April 06, Associated Press* — **International team offers clues to spread of SARS.** An international team is turning up possible clues to the spread of Severe Acute Respiratory Syndrome (SARS) as it tries to follow the disease's tracks across the bustling landscape of southern China. **Chinese experts in Guangdong province told the scientists they have found a rare form of airborne chlamydia in some of their SARS patients, raising the possibility that more than one germ may be involved. Other Chinese cases suggest the disease might be passed by touching something tainted by a sick person's mucus or saliva.** Coronaviruses are commonly found in animals, but microbiologists believe SARS is caused by a new form of coronavirus. Scientists are trying to determine if animals somehow carried the virus through the complex.

Source: http://www.sltrib.com/2003/Apr/04062003/nation_w/45465.asp

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Government Sector

19. *April 06, Associated Press* — **Security costs cause government disputes. States and cities are faced with the burden of stronger homeland defense at a time when their finances are in the worst shape of the last half-century.** State troopers in Connecticut keep watch from the sky 24 hours a day, guarding reservoirs, bridges and more; National Guard troops in Arizona patrol the biggest U.S. nuclear power plant; safety worries shut Philadelphia's

Independence Hall most of last week. No overall, national figure for the cost of such measures to both cities and states is available, though partial estimates reach well into the tens of millions of dollars per week. Security officials pledge that, come what may, they will redirect resources to keep the country safe. But the strain is obvious. **Governors are telling Congress they should get control of federal security funds, while mayors argue they are closest to first-responders – the police, fire and emergency crews that would deal most directly with terrorist activity.** Congress is working on a war budget that would add more than \$4 billion for homeland security, including upward of \$600 million for urban areas considered higher threats. And Homeland Security Director Tom Ridge has emphasized that state and local authorities are crucial.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A43949-2003Apr 6.html>

20. *April 04, Government Executive* — **House, Senate pass war supplemental spending bill. The House and Senate Thursday night approved separate versions of a fiscal 2003 war supplemental spending bill that with amendments totaled almost \$80 billion.** Senators voted 93–0 to approve their version of the supplemental. The House vote was 414–12. During Senate floor debate Thursday, the chamber added \$105 million to the supplemental for grants to states to provide smallpox and other bioterrorism inoculation efforts. The amendment, offered by Sen. Evan Bayh, (D–IN), was agreed to by voice vote. Senators also accepted \$155 million in new spending for veterans' care in an amendment by Sen. Bob Graham, (D–FL). **The House approved an amendment offered by Rep. George Nethercutt, (R–WA), to prohibit companies based in countries that opposed the United States' Iraq war resolution before the UN Security Council -- such as France, Germany, Russia, China and Syria -- from obtaining federal contracts for reconstruction projects in Iraq.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0403/040403cdam1.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

Nothing to report.

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

21. *April 07, New York Times* — **In 24-hour news times, real-time translation. Most Americans likely have difficulty understanding the broadcasts of Al Jazeera, the Arab news network, but several government agencies now can watch it while simultaneously receiving an English translation of the programming.** Virage Inc., a U.S.-based maker of Internet video technologies, has recently supplied several United States intelligence agencies with a system that will provide real-time voice recognition and English translation of foreign-language news broadcasts. **The system, which was financed last year by the Pentagon's Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency, or DARPA, can run on any fast personal computer, generating scrolling text displays of both Arabic and translated English text.** DARPA is conducting a research project known as Translingual Information Detection, Extraction and Summarization, whose aim is to provide English speakers with

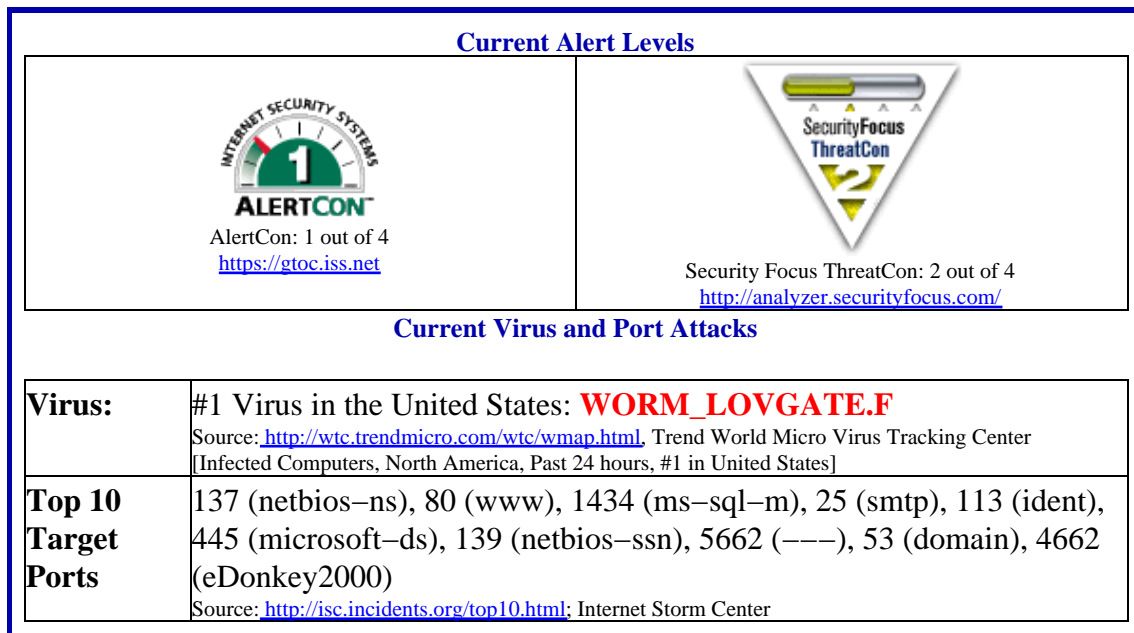
working translations of languages like Arabic and Chinese.

Source: <http://www.nytimes.com/2003/04/07/technology/07TRAN.html>

22. *April 06, The Globe and Mail (Canada)* — **U.S. military funds Calgary hacker. Theo de Raadt, a hacker from Calgary, Canada, has received a \$2-million grant from the U.S. Defense Advanced Research Projects Agency (DARPA), the R&D arm of the U.S. military. For this grant, DARPA is interested in testing the security of commercial software systems against the security of open source software projects.** de Raadt leads development of OpenBSD, an open-source computer operating system. OpenBSD, a derivative of the Unix operating system, is widely considered by computer experts to be the most resistant to unauthorized use. "We were convinced OpenBSD was the best platform to use as a basis for further securing open source," said Jonathan Smith, a professor of computer and information science at the University of Pennsylvania. Because DARPA does not directly fund projects outside the United States, it is Smith's computer science department that received the grant, although most of the money flows through to de Raadt's project. **Although Microsoft Corp., whose Windows products are the world's dominant operating system products, and many other commercial software vendors are paying new attention to the security of their products, that renewed interest has done little to improve their products so far, de Raadt said.**

Source: <http://www.globetechnology.com/servlet/story/RTGAM.20030406.whack46/GTStory>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

23. *April 06, Reuters* — **Explosives found outside Lebanon McDonald's.** A small blast at a McDonald's restaurant in Beirut on Saturday may have been intended to lure people toward a

car packed with explosives parked nearby, but the bomb failed to detonate, security sources said on Sunday. **The car contained some 120 pounds of explosives, enough to destroy the restaurant where a dynamite bomb had exploded in the toilets earlier, lightly injuring three people, judicial sources said.** Lebanese President Emile Lahoud said the bombing, the latest in a string of attacks on U.S. and British targets, was aimed at destabilizing Lebanon and would only serve Israeli interests. Security forces found the explosives in the car when they searched a parking lot close to the restaurant. A malfunction had prevented them from detonating, security sources said. **It was likely the initial blast had been intended to draw a crowd to the area before the car-bomb exploded, they said, suggesting the attack may not have been targeted at U.S. interests.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story_1_nm/lebanon_explosives_dc_2

24. *April 06, The Guardian (UK)* — **New generation of al Qaeda feared.** On Web sites, in chat rooms and at radical mosques across the Muslim world, followers of al Qaeda and other jihad movements are using the war in Iraq to recruit and reconnect with cohorts committed to holy war against America. **U.S. intelligence monitoring the chatter said it does not believe a terror strike is imminent though the United States remains on high alert. But experts say Muslim discontent over the war in Iraq could spawn the next generation of global terrorists.** "The current al Qaeda leaders are all known now but the war is going to create new faces unknown to the rest of the world, and they will become tomorrow's leaders of the groups that will never stop battling America," said Mohammed Salah, a Cairo-based journalist who has covered Osama bin Laden, al Qaeda and other militant groups for more than a decade for the pan-Arab daily al-Hayat.

Source: <http://www.guardian.co.uk/worldlatest/story/0,1280,-2537754,00.html>

25. *April 05, Associated Press* — **U.S. warns of possible Uzbekistan attacks.** The State Department on Saturday warned that the government had received reports that terrorists may attack hotels frequented by Americans in Uzbekistan. **The said supporters of extremist groups such as the Islamic Movement of Uzbekistan, al Qaeda, and the Eastern Turkistan Islamic Movement remain active in the region. The groups may seek "softer targets" as security is increased at official U.S. facilities, the government said. "These groups have expressed anti-U.S. sentiments and may attempt to target U.S. government or private interests in Uzbekistan," a government statement said. "Terrorist groups do not distinguish between official and civilian targets."** American citizens should increase their security awareness and avoid locations where Americans gather in large numbers, the State Department said, adding that the U.S. Embassy in Tashkent would continue to take increased security precautions.

Source: <http://www.newsday.com/news/politics/wire/sns-ap-us-uzbekistan-warning.0.1277879.story?coll=sns-ap-politics-headlines>

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DHS/IAIP Products &Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

DHS/IAIP Warnings – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

DHS/IAIP Publications – DHS/IAIP Daily Reports, CyberNotes, Information Bulletins, and other publications

DHS/IAIP Daily Reports Archive – Access past DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Reports

DHS/IAIP Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report Contact Information

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